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This report describes the scope and aims of the Survey of Language Use and Language Teaching in Eastern Africa. An outgrowth of a series of ICSLP conferences (International Conference on Second Language Problems, jointly sponsored by the Center for Applied Linguistics, the British Council, and the Bureau pour l' Enseignement de la Langue et de la Civilisation Francaises a l' Etranger), this Survey is centered in Nairobi, Kenya, with the backing of the Ford Foundation. The areas covered include Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Zambia. The aims are (1) to assemble basic data on the use and teaching of the major languages in each country, (2) simultaneously to stimulate local research in linguistics, sociolinguistics, and language pedagogy, (3) to foster closer and more productive contacts among specialists in different countries and across disciplinary lines, and (4) to strengthen the institutional and personnel resources in the language sciences in Eastern Africa. A quarterly "Bulletin" is available to interested readers upon writing to the Survey Office, P.O. Box 30641, Nairobi, Kenya. (AMM)

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Survey of Language Use and Language Teaching in Eastern Africa

In a very real sense the Survey is an outgrowth of this series of ICSLP Conferences. At Nijmegen, at Besançon, and at later Conferences, there were repeated recommendations that somewhere, preferably in a country of Sub-Saharan Africa, a study in depth should be made of the total situation with regard to the correlated phenomena of language use and language teaching. Such a study would provide the basic information, largely unavailable at present but indispensable, for the formulation of sound language policies and the effective implementation of policy through the educational system and the mass media of communication.

After a long exploration of alternate possibilities, an opportunity to carry out these recommendations presented itself in the spring of 1967, when the Ford Foundation gave its backing to the organization of the Survey of Language Use and Language Teaching in Eastern Africa. Each element in the name of the Survey is significant. It is to include, not one country, but five countries of eastern Africa: the three countries of the former confederation of East Africa -- Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania — plus Ethiopia to the north and Zambia to the south.

With regard to language use, it is to attempt to answer such questions as the following. What languages are used in the country ? By whom are they spoken and where ? What is the relationship of these languages one to another ? What is the extent of multilingualism among individuals and in geographical terms ? What is the correlation between language use and social status ? Under what circumstances does a multilingual speaker shift from one of his languages to another ? What are the linguistic needs of the various groups making up the society ? What are the attitudes of various ethnic and social groups toward the languages most often used ?

With regard to language teaching, answers will be attempted to a parallel set of questions. To what extent does the language instruction given in the schools correspond to the actual linguistic needs of the society ? Under present circumstances what degree of success is achieved in the teaching of various languages ? What elements contribute most to pupils' success in learning a given language ? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the materials presently available for language instruction ? Of the instructional methods in current use ? Of the mechanisms whereby teachers are trained ?

The emphases and impact of the Eastern African Survey will thus differ considerably from those of the West African Languages Survey carried out several years ago under the direction of Professor Joseph Greenberg. Whereas the latter involved primarily the structural analysis of various African languages, the major concerns of the Eastern African Survey will be of a sociolinguistic nature, and attention will be focused on the pedagogical and practical applications of linguistic and sociological research. Since those involved in the Eastern African Survey will attempt to examine the total phenomenon of language use, they must look first of all at major languages such as English, Swahili, and Amharic, rather than at minor languages that have little possibility of playing an important social and educational role.

The aims of the new Survey have been formulated as being: (1) to assemble basic data on the use and teaching of the major languages in each country; (2) simultaneously to stimulate local research in linguistics, sociolinguistics, and language pedagogy; (3) to foster closer and more productive contacts among specialists in different countries and across disciplinary lines; and (4) to strengthen the institutional and personnel resources in the language sciences in Eastern Africa.

The organization of the Survey is complex, necessarily so in view of the variety of institutions which have a legitimate interest in it. Policy control is vested in a Council made up principally of two representatives of the national university of each of the five countries in

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which studies are to be made. Field personnel brought in from outside Africa are to be employed directly by the Ford Foundation, which will thus play an unusually active role in the total operation. The University of California, Los Angeles, has been deeply involved in the planning of the project and has provided the Field Director and Assistant (Mr. Clifford Lutton) who staff the Survey Office in Nairobi. The funds available for research grants to local scholars and for scholarships to provide advanced training for specialists are administered by the University of East Africa. The Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington has recruited an Advisory Committee which includes a number of the most distinguished American and British specialists in sociolinguistics, African linguistics, and language pedagogy. The Survey is thus predominantly international, non-governmental, and academic in character.

The initial grants made by the Foundation will cover the costs of the operation during a two-year period which began July 1, 1967, but assurances have been given that the necessary support will be continued for at least an additional two years. Certain activities connected with the Survey have already been undertaken in all five countries, and such activities will continue until the summer of 1971, perhaps even beyond that date. In each country, however, the high point of the operation will come with the period of twelve to fifteen months during which a team of three scholars from overseas will be in residence at the national university, working with local scholars and students in the preparation of the "country study". The Uganda country-study team arrived in Kampala at the beginning of 1968. The arrival of the Kenya team in Nairobi is scheduled for July, 1968, and that of the Ethiopia team in Addis Ababa for August-September, 1968. The Tanzania team will begin its work in June, 1969, and the Zambia team will probably reach Lusaka in February, 1970.

Each three-man team will include a senior scholar as leader and two younger scholars, selected so as to insure a balance among the various types of disciplinary specialization demanded by the broad scope of the Survey. The following appointments have been made or are in the process of negotiation: for Uganda (1) Professor Peter Ladefoged, experimental phonetician from the University of California, Los Angeles (2) Mrs. Ruth Glick, specialist in comparative education also from UCLA (3) Dr. Clive Criper, sociolinguist from the University of Edinburgh; for Kenya (1) Professor Wilfred Whiteley, linguist from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies (2) Dr. David Parkin, social anthropologist also from SOAS (3) Mrs. Barbara Neale, sociolinguist from the University of Texas; for Ethiopia (1) Professor Charles Ferguson, linguist from Stanford University (2) Dr. Robert Cooper, sociolinguist from Yeshiva University (3) Mr. Marvin Bender, linguist from the University of Texas; and for Tanzania (1) Professor Edgar Polome, sociolinguist from the University of Texas (2) Mr. Peter Hill, specialist in the teaching of English as a second language from the University of London's Institute of Education (3) Mr. Henry Barton, linguist also from Texas. It would appear that the Survey has been extremely fortunate in the recruitment of personnel.

A summary of what has already happened and should happen hereafter in Kenya may serve to show how it is hoped to fit the various types of Survey-sponsored activity together in a cohesive over-all program for each of the five countries. Mrs. Neale will concentrate her attention on a study of the sociological correlates of language shifting in the country's Asian communities, while Dr. Parkin will analyze language use in the homes, recreation centers, and places of employment of people living in the middle-income neighbourhoods of Nairobi. Complementing these studies in depth, Professor Whiteley will spend most of his time outside the capital, in rural and urban settings throughout the country, making a much more general study of "public multilingualism", i.e. what situations are characterized by the use of which languages.

In addition, the Survey will support financially the research of a number of investigators, several of whom are being given released

time by local institutions. Mr. F.A.N. Itebete of the Kenya Institute of Administration will investigate the processes by which a union language, Luhya, seems to have been created fairly recently to meet the needs of a number of small ethnic groups in the western part of the country who originally used quite divergent languages. Mr. Thomas Gorman of the University College, Nairobi, has already begun to carry out a complicated program of testing the linguistic achievement and attitudes of students entering secondary school in 1968. A member of the staff of the Ministry of Education's Curriculum Development and Research Centre will probably evaluate the current state of the teaching of English, Swahili, and the vernaculars in Kenya. There may be a study of the language loyalties of coastal Moslems who have settled in Nairobi.

Already a workshop has been held which brought together in Nairobi nine people from six different countries to discuss their problems and successes in the preparation of materials for teaching beginning English in eastern Africa, and a workshop on the teaching of Swahili at the secondary level has been planned for August to which the Survey will make it possible to bring two expert participants from Tanzania. Four scholarships have been granted in an effort to enlarge the pool of linguistic expertise available to the country's ministries and institutions.

The information obtained by the Survey from existing sources and new research will be incorporated in publications of a number of different types. First of all there will be the basic series of five country studies, comparable in format and to some extent parallel in content, written in relatively non-technical language for the average educator and concerned layman. Then there will be technical monographs and articles in which research results will be reported in detail to professional scholars. A valuable part of the total output may be in the form of work-papers — initial plans, first drafts of tests, interview schedules not yet ready for publication. These will be listed and briefly described in the Survey's quarterly Bulletin, then made available to those who write in for them.

The culminating activity of the initial two years of the Survey will be the first Eastern African Regional Conference on Language and Linguistics, to be held at the University College, Dar es Salaam, on December 18-21, 1968. The Conference will overlap with a Seminar on the Social and Linguistic Concomitants of Multi-Lingualism in Eastern Africa, organized by the International African Institute, and will be followed by a joint meeting of the Survey's Advisory Committee and Council. It is expected that the concatenation of meetings will bring together the most distinguished group of linguistic luminaries and the largest number of persons professionally concerned with language who have ever been assembled in eastern Africa. Though no funds will be available for paying the expenses of individual participants from outside Africa, anyone interested in language who can get to Dar es Salaam on his own resources is most cordially invited to attend.

Readers who would like to be kept informed regarding the progress of the Survey can do so by addressing to the Survey Office, P.O. Box 30641, Nairobi, a request to be put on the mailing list for the quarterly Bulletin.

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